

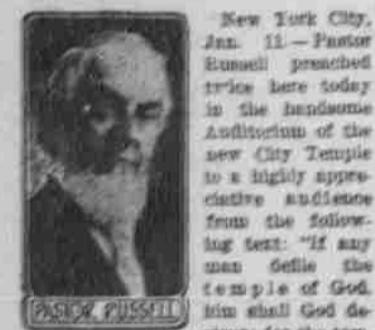
Pastor Russell's Sermon

OUR BODIES ARE GOD'S TEMPLES

Only the Regenerated Are the
Sons of God.

BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

The Unregenerate—Their Privileges.
"If the Spirit of God Dwell in You."
Greater Privileges—Greater Responsibilities—Greater Honors and Glories.
Saved to Human Perfection—Saved to Spirit Perfection—Earthly Glory.
Heavenly Glory.



PASTOR RUSSELL

pie of God is holy, which temple ye are"—1 Corinthians 3:27.

The Pastor declared that this Scripture could not be applied indiscriminately, with the same force, to all men. Only the Church are temples of God in the sense the Apostles here mentioned; for only such as have been regenerated, regenerated again by the Holy Spirit, are the sons of God. These have received a new life, and are scripturally described as "New Creatures in Christ Jesus." To these, "Old things have passed away, and all things have become new." These have entered into a covenant with God through the merit of Jesus, who serves them as Advocate, imputing His righteousness to them, justifying them freely from their unintentional imperfections and weaknesses. Because they are thus justified by faith, God has accepted their sacrifice of earthly hopes and interests, and has made them New Creatures by begetting them with the Holy Spirit.

This, however, is only the beginning of their new experience. If faithful, they will still loyally comply with their Covenant of Sacrifice, and ought to experience too hard in their endeavor to so live as to glorify God in their bodies and spirits, which are His. They will count it all joy when they pass through fiery trials, enduring all things but loss and dress in comparison with the rewards which God has promised them. They follow their Redeemer through evil report, as well as through good report, seeking to walk in His steps. Thus, as New Creatures, we said to dwell in or inhabit the earthly body, using it merely as a servant in the doing of the will of God.

The distortion between these New Creatures, spirit-begotged, and the remainder of mankind (however just and well-intended), is very decided. We do not speak of humanity, ordinarily, as apart from their bodies; for cut off from the body, they would be dead. We speak of such separation as dislocation. As the union of life (spiritual with organic body) forms the soul, or sentient being, so the separating of these two components causes the soul to cease. Thus death would be the end of humanity, had not God provided for the redemption of our race, and its restoration by resurrection. Its restoration will be merely a bringing back of that which death is now destroying: viz., human or earthly being.

Solomon's Typical Temple.

Under Divine direction the stones and timbers for Solomon's temple were prepared before the work of constructing the temple began. We read that the whole building went together perfectly, without the sound of a hammer, i.e., there was no sound to pound or chisel any part. Every stone was perfectly fitted for its place. This is very much the style of our modern construction. The huge stones in our great buildings are not chiseled on the spot, nor during the process of construction, but in the quarry, and then are crated and brought to the building site all ready to be placed.

God, the great Architect of the spiritual Temple, planned and directed that earthly temple's construction, so as to make of it an illustration of the real Temple of God, the Church in glory. In our earthly experiences we receive the chisellings and polishings necessary to our various places in the glorious Temple about to be built. Whoever resists these chisellings, or by unfitness escapes them, will thereby just so surely escape being a member of the Church in glory. We cannot afford that loss. We must therefore gladly submit ourselves to the Divine provisions which shape our lives, our destinies, and prepare us for the glorious things which God has in reservation for those that love Him.

We may warn every man along the broad, general line of the little, "Whosoever is a man sooths, shall be also rep." He that sows to the flesh—to sin, to selfishness, to meanness, to the fallen propensities, to anger, malice, envy, hatred, strife, evil speaking, etc.—will be sure to reap correspondingly bitter experiences; and this way persisted in would finally bring him to the Second Death. God has no gift of eternal life or other eternal favors for those who love sin. His mercies are provided for those who have learned

the lesson and have turned from sin and become loyal and obedient to their Creator.

God's Temple the Church.

St. Paul tells exactly what he refers to by this term, "temple of God," saying, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" in the Wilderness, when God entered into covenant relationship with the Israelites, becoming their God and accepting them as His people under the Law Covenant. He manifested Himself in the Most Holy of their Tabernacle. The Divine presence was indicated by a great light called the Shekinah Glory, which shone out from between the Cherubim covering the Mercy Seat.

When the Israelites would draw near to God, they did so through His appointed servants, Aaron and his sons. These had access to God's presence.

The Tabernacle was therefore the temple of God, because God was represented by His Spirit or Power, or Presence, there. But it was called the Tabernacle because it was merely a tent in contrast with the permanent building erected later by King Solomon. After its dedication, God appeared in that Temple instead of in the Tabernacle, and His presence was manifested in the same manner.

The Church is the antitypical Temple of God; but, as St. Peter points out, it is a Temple is not yet constructed. (1 Peter 2: 4-6.) Each regenerated child of God, begotten of the Holy Spirit, is a living stone in preparation for a place in the glorious Temple of God, soon to be constructed. These living stones are God's workmanship. He works in them by the Spirit of Truth, and by His providence. He shapes them, polishes them, develops their characters, and makes them ready for the coming building. Nevertheless, the Master-workman always recognizes the free will of His people. He works in them only as much as they are willing to let Him work, only in harmony with their prayers to be filled with His Spirit.

Some indeed draw back entirely. They are at liberty to draw back unto perdition; or, as many do, they are at liberty to draw back from the full preparation for the Kingdom and the Temple, to hold back from the chisellings and polishings, so as to be unfit for a place in the Temple. As long as they do not draw back in heart, however, but remain loyal to the Lord, they will get a blessing, even though they will miss the chief blessing. This the Apostle shows in the preceding context, saying, "If any man's work abide, * * * he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved, as by fire—" because he has built upon the Rock.

The Temple Not Yet Built.

According to St. Peter's picture, the living stones for the Temple are merely chiseled and polished during their earthly life; and not until the resurrection will these living stones come together as the Temple of God, to be fully indwelt by His Holy Spirit. Hence St. Paul was speaking mostly of our earthly bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. In other words, he was calling our earthly tabernacles temples. So in another place he declared, "We that are in this tabernacle, do groan, being burdened: not that we would be unclothed (without a tabernacle or body), but that we would be clothed upon—with our heavenly house, our spiritual bodies, which God has promised in the resurrection."

St. Paul's thought appears to be that wherever God may dwell is necessarily His temple or His tabernacle; and that any willing or intentional disinheritance in sin, depraving that temple or tabernacle, would be an offense not only against it, but against God. Oh, if Christian people who have received the bestowing of the Holy Spirit could not comprehend this lesson, we may be sure that it would have a powerful influence upon their lives!

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In our earthly experiences we receive the chisellings and polishings necessary to our various places in the glorious Temple about to be built. Whoever resists these chisellings, or by unfitness escapes them, will thereby just so surely escape being a member of the Church in glory. We cannot afford that loss. We must therefore gladly submit ourselves to the Divine provisions which shape our lives, our destinies, and prepare us for the glorious things which God has in reservation for those that love Him.

The resurrection of the Church is in the Bible called the First Resurrection, or Chief Resurrection; for all those who will participate in it will experience an instantaneous change from earthly conditions—"changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." Each one thus changed is thereby fitted or built, into his place in the Temple of Glory. This resurrection work is due to begin at the Second Coming of Christ, when the dead in Christ shall rise first. (1 Thessalonians

ans 4: 16.) Thus a considerable number of living stones will be laid simultaneously to their places in glory.

Then will follow the change of the remaining members of the Church. As the Apostle explains, we which are alive and remain shall be changed. Each will be changed in an instant, not slowly; but all will not be changed in the same instant or moment. The process will gradually continue during the time called in the Bible the Harvest; and by the conclusion of the Harvest the last of these living stones will have passed beyond the veil "changed." Then the Temple will be finished. The next step in the Divine program will be that which was typified by the story of the Lord coming into Solomon's temple and filling it after it had been completed.

Presented With Exceeding Joy.

In considering what may be the antitype of the filling of that temple with God's glory, we may not speak with too great positiveness. We may merely give our conjecture. We may know that the resurrection change will give to each member of the Church claim a personal glory, as it is written, "Known in weakness, raised in power; sown in dishonor, raised in glory; sown in animal body, raised a spiritual body." But the glory-filling Solomon's temple cannot seemingly refer to this personal glory. Rather, it must signify the honor which God will give to the Church and of which the Savior spoke, saying that whosoever would confess Him before men, He would confess before the Father and before the holy angels. This would be the filling of the Church with the Divine glory.

Other scriptures tell us that the Redeemer will present on himself and irreprovable before the Father with exceeding joy. This will be glory for us. Having received the Savior's "Well done" to receive finally the Father's approval and by Him to be honored before the holy angels will be to fill the Church the Temple of God with Divine Glory. But perhaps more than this is meant. Perhaps it means that when the Father shall receive the Church He will glorify her by communicating of His power, as authority, to her, investing her, in association with the Lord Jesus, the Heavenly Bridegroom, with the Divine authority and power to take hold of the world's affairs for its rescue from sin and death, in connection with the binding of Satan for a thousand years and the blessing of all the families of the earth with the knowledge of the glory of God.

The Atonement Day in Type.

In everything God caused typical Israel to perform typical ceremonies, illustrative of various features of the Divine Plan. The atonement Day sacrifices represented the "better sacrifices" of Jesus, our great High Priest. He first offered up Himself at Jordan, finishing His work at Calvary. Beginning at Pentecost, He has been offering up all those who accept as members of His Body. The death of the last member of the Body of Christ, which is the Church, will mean the completion of the great High Priest's better sacrifices. It will mean the passing of all the members of His Body into death, according to the flesh but into membership in the Body of the High Priest on the spirit plane, as spirit beings. It will mean that the High Priest complete will then be born again the second rebirth.

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The Glory-Filled Temple.

All through the thousand years of Messiah's Kingdom God will be in His glorified Church, which will be therefore the glorious Temple of the Lord, from which will proceed to mankind all the blessings of instructions necessary for their full recovery to Divine favor. There will be no more stone-walling days, no more sin-offerings; for as St. Paul points out, the better sacrifices completely cancel sin. But they will be sacrifices as it is written, "Then shall they offer whole burnt offerings upon Mine altar."

During Messiah's Kingdom the offerings of the people, which will be presented through the Church, the Temple, will be the offering, or devotion, of themselves—their time, their talent, their influence, to be used in joyful service. Such consecration God is always pleased to receive. They will not be sin-offerings; for all the sin-offerings are accomplished in advance by the antitypical High Priest. His better sacrifices cover every feature of sin that is forgivable at all. All willful sins receive punishment, in proportion to wilfulness—in proportion to knowledge and opportunity.

How glad we are to know of our privilege in connection with the glorious Temple which God is constructing! Oh, may we all as living stones submit ourselves, our wills, to God, to be finished in full conformity to His will! How glad we are that subsequently all mankind will have the privilege of approaching God through us, through this spiritual Temple, which is the Christ—Jesus the Head, and the Church the Body.

"New rules and regulations were adopted by the library board and were printed for distribution. The principal change in these was in having the readers keep their own library cards instead of having them filed at the library.

CIRCULATION OF CITY LIBRARY INCREASED

Total 45,500 During Year Which Closed December 31, and Increase is 6,200 Over Year of 1922.

NUMBER OF USEFUL BOOKS ARE ADDED TO COLLECTION

Employment of School Librarian Has Worked Very Satisfactorily for All Concerned.

The following is the report for the year 1922 of Librarian Anna D. Sweeney, of the Salem Public Library, to the directors:

"I have the honor to present the third annual report of the Salem Public Library under the administration of the city for the year ending December 31, 1922.

"This has been the first year in our new building and has been marked not so much by new lines of work as by an attempt to strengthen our collection so as to render efficient help to people who are engaged in serious study or research.

ADDITIONS

A number of good and useful books have been added to our shelves this year. During the first of the year an account of the books in the library was taken and it was found there were 7,437 adult books, 19,558 juvenile books, 62 adult pamphlets and 24 juvenile pamphlets, a total of 9,555. An account was taken of these by classes so the weaker parts of the library could be built up. During the year 3,691 adult books and 3,272 juvenile books, a total of 13,966 have been added, and 29 adult pamphlets were added making a total of 13,995 pamphlets and 34 juvenile pamphlets. 245 adult books and 146 juvenile books were withdrawn making the total withdrawals 3,91 books. There is now in the library 10,499 books and pamphlets.

CIRCULATION

"The total circulation for the year from the library, not including the branch in the high school or the circulation through the schools was 18,409. This is an increase of 6,200 over 1921. The circulation of the high school library for the school year 1921-22 was 2,557 and the circulation from the grades for the school year was 13,548. Adding these to the total library circulation would make a total circulation of 67,514.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

"The material of the library has been supplemented by special collections from the state library. The library has had special collections on immigration, sex hygiene, municipal government, accounting, business efficiency, window dressing, etc.

REFERENCE

"The work of the reference department has been very active. Many patrons have been assisted in looking up sections. The high school and university students use the library extensively especially the university students. Thinking to help them use it intelligently, the librarian gave special lectures on the classification and arrangement of the library and the use of the catalog and magazine indexes. The club of the city use the library to some extent although it is felt that some of them could use it more than they do. The Women's club looks in the use of the library by clubs. A few lists of books for suggestive reading have been compiled and are at the借出 desk for distribution.

PERIODICALS

"Subscriptions were placed for 42 magazines and newspapers were received as gifts. These have been on file in the reading room and have been much read by the public. Beginning with May subscriptions were placed for two copies of Harper's, Century and Scribner's and these have circulated like books except they could be kept only four days.

REGISTRATION

The registration department shows a large number of new readers, 984 adults, 469 juveniles and 23 county patrons having registered, making a total of 1,475, and 196 readers have withdrawn. This shows a consistent growth in the number of people using the library.

RULES

"New rules and regulations were adopted by the library board and were printed for distribution. The principal change in these was in having the readers keep their own library cards instead of having them filed at the library.

BINDING

"Fifty-nine books and 97 magazines were sent to the bindery. In addition to this much mending and repair of books has been done at the library.

SHREWDING

"This year has marked the instal-

ment of the new wall shriveling around the back of the library room and the removal of the old book stacks. The appearance of the room has been materially improved by this change.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

"The arrangement between the library board and the school board for the employment of a school librarian has worked very satisfactorily for all concerned.

LITERARY LECTURES

"This year has marked the establishment of a public literary lecture course. These lectures are held on the first and third Fridays of each month in the auditorium of the library and are free to the public. The lectures cover a wide range of subjects so that every one may find something in which he or she is interested. These lectures begin in November and have been very well attended. They show the great need of permanent chairs in the auditorium in order that the crowds that come may be comfortably accommodated.

STAFF

"There have been some changes in the staff this year. Your librarian assumed her duties on January 20. In April Miss Benita Lawrence who had served six months apprenticeship was added to the staff as second assistant. Miss Davis, the school librarian resigned and Miss Phoebe Case was secured to take her place, beginning September 1.

GIFTS

"A number of friends have given us books this year. Not only have these been appreciated but also the interest which prompted them.

"In submitting this report I wish to thank the members of the library board for the help and co-operation they have given this last year."

FIERCE WIND STORM

(Continued from page one.)

The unfinished Ryan building would crash down, it was feared, but it stood. Many roofs were damaged.

NARROWLY ESCAPE DEATH

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